**Central America**

**Landforms and Climates**

**The Mountainous Core**

**Mountains run length of C. America**

**Highest are over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ft.**

**Transportation in area is difficult**

**Two climate zones exist here**

**Between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ft. springtime climate year round supports agriculture**

**Over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ft is cold year round – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Caribbean Lowlands**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Climate is found here**

**Rain forests are common**

**Little \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is possible**

**Pacific Coastal Plain**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is common here**

**Region only receives rain in summer**

**Volcanic activity has given \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to area because of ash**

**Nicaragua contains many freshwater lakes that contain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Climate Hazards**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are common**

**People and Culture**

**Mountains have made communication throughout area difficult**

**Indians**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Guatemala are native peoples**

**Europeans and Mestizos**

**Europeans began settling here in 1500s after the Spanish Conquest**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the official language in most of Central America**

**90% of Costa Ricans have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ descent**

**Most of El Salvador and Nicaragua are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**African Descent**

**Many Central Americans descend from African slaves brought to the area in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Many people of African descent migrated from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the 1900s to work on plantations**

**Wealth and Poverty**

**Most people are very poor**

**Most rich are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of European or mestizo descent**

**Most people of native or African descent are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with no land or low-wage laborers**

**Middle class is made up of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and urban industry and service employees**

**Economic Activities**

**Most Central Americans earn living by farming**

**Most live by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Small farms grow corn, beans, and squash**

**Plantations grow \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Coffee, Bananas, Cotton**

**These crops account for over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Central America’s exports**

**Political Conflict**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to feed the growing population and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have led to conflicts**

**Many redistributions of land have favored \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**People opposing these plans have started \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Nicaragua**

**Somoza family controlled government from 1936-1979 through tyranny**

**Sandinistas overthrew the government in 1979 and tried to set up a socialist government**

**Contras began to fight against Sandinistas because they were afraid of a communist government**

**Fighting between two groups lasted until 1990 when a cease-fire was announced**

**A peaceful election took place in 1996**

**Hurricane Mitch stopped reconstruction efforts**

**El Salvador**

**Rich landowners feared an uprising by the landless poor**

**They hired death squads to kill political opponents**

**A civil war erupted from 1979 to 1992**

**Nearly 70,000 people died**

**A UN peace agreement was signed in 1992 to end the fighting**

**Hurricane Mitch also hurt reconstruction efforts here**

**Guatemala**

**Country was ruled by military dictators after gaining independence in 1821**

**A liberal government was elected after World War II led by Jorge Ubico**

**A civil war erupted in the 1960s**

**Death Squads were used to control the people**

**Over 150,000 people died with 40,000 missing**

**A civilian government under Jorge Elias was overthrown by the military in 1993**

**Congress elected Ramiro Carpio who tried to restore peace**

**The civil war ended in 1996 and the first free elections took place in 1999**